

VA Privacy Service Privacy Matters Symposium Event Resource Guide

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Privacy Service, thank you for participating in the Privacy Matters Symposium: “Health Care Modernization at the Crossroads of Data Privacy and COVID-19.” We hope you found the information presented by our presenters insightful and meaningful to your daily work. Below is a recap of the main topics discussed today with links to additional information.

VA Health Care Modernization

VA Modernization is an ongoing transformation throughout the agency that enables Veterans to more easily access the high-quality care and benefits they have earned for their service to our country. The initiative empowers Veterans, employees, and partners to transform systems and create foundational change; simplify operations to improve customer service; and empower people to embrace change.

Over the next 10 years, VA will move from using its current electronic health record (EHR) system — the software that stores health information and tracks all aspects of patient care — to a new system that will link in with the Department of Defense’s (DoD) patient records and unify all VA facilities on one system. The program that will manage VA’s steady transition to the new EHR is called Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM). The new system will transform health care for Veterans by providing a seamless and paperless transition from receiving care as a service member at DoD to receiving care as a Veteran at VA facilities. VA medical centers in the Pacific Northwest have been selected as the initial sites to deploy the new EHR system starting in October 2020. VA Modernization is delivering a stronger future by ensuring interoperability among DoD, VA, and private sector healthcare worldwide.

Leveraging 3D printing innovation toward improving patient care through breaking advances in pre-surgical planning, medical research, and prosthetics is another way VA is revolutionizing Veteran health care. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is also transforming VA’s health care as VA has the largest genomic databases in the country which is informing AI research. Veterans Health Administration’s AI office is making considerable advances with VA’s genomics database toward advanced treatment and diagnostics.



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Privacy and COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has turned data privacy into a hot button issue. From the high increase of Coronavirus-related scams to evolving privacy policies to the use of contact tracing, society must adjust to new changes and “new normalcies” that would have seemed preposterous only a year ago. VA Privacy Service presents a list of helpful COVID-19 resources for Veterans covering both privacy and the pandemic:

https://www.oprm.va.gov/docs/COVID_RESOURCES_EXT.pdf

Privacy and Compliance

Privacy compliance at VA includes policy and procedural updates to ensure VA is conforming to all applicable privacy laws. VA Privacy Service administers programs in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, E-Government Act of 2002, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and National Institute of Standards and Technology 800-53, Revision 4, Security and Privacy Controls for Information Systems and Organizations.

More Information

RESOURCES

- HIPAA and COVID-19
 - <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/special-topics/hipaa-covid19/index.html>
- VA Modernization Fact Sheet
 - https://www.va.gov/MODERNIZATION/static2/img/resources/MOD-Factsheet_vF.pdf
- VA responds to COVID-19 with schedule revisions to Electronic Health Record implementation
 - <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5499>
- What Is VA Doing to Protect Your Privacy?
 - https://www.oprm.va.gov/docs/VAPrivacyServiceExternalBrochure_PrintFriendly.pdf
- FAQ: COVID-19 and Health Data Privacy
 - <https://www.networkforphl.org/resources/faqs-covid-19-and-health-data-privacy/>
- Coronavirus FAQs: What Veterans need to know
 - <https://www.va.gov/coronavirus-veteran-frequently-asked-questions/>



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ARTICLES

- First component of VA EHR modernization goes live in Ohio
 - <https://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/first-component-va-ehr-modernization-goes-live-ohio>
- How VA drastically expanded telehealth during the pandemic
 - <https://federalnewsnetwork.com/veterans-affairs/2020/06/how-va-drastically-expanded-telehealth-during-the-pandemic/>
- GovernmentCIO: VA Continuing Health Records Modernization Amid COVID-19
 - <https://www.fedhealthit.com/2020/06/governmentcio-va-continuing-health-records-modernization-amid-covid-19/>
- How Americans see digital privacy issues amid the COVID-19 outbreak
 - <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/05/04/how-americans-see-digital-privacy-issues-amid-the-covid-19-outbreak/>

VIDEOS

- VA healthcare slated for modernization; COVID-19 testing required for nursing home staffs
 - <https://www.healthcarefinancenews.com/video/va-healthcare-slated-modernization-nursing-homes-required-test-staff-covid-19>
- Subcommittee on Health and Technology Modernization Joint Hearing: VA Telehealth During COVID-19
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=7&v=xRw23BICvdl&feature=emb_lo_go
- VA has security tools to help Veterans guard online privacy during COVID-19
 - <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/75015/va-security-tools-help-veterans-guard-online-privacy-covid-19/>



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PODCASTS

- Keeping IT Brief: Post-COVID Realities in Healthcare Pt. #1
 - <https://www.fedhealthit.com/2020/08/post-covid-realities-in-healthcare-pt-1/>
- Keeping IT Brief: Post-COVID Realities in Healthcare Pt. #2
 - <https://www.fedhealthit.com/2020/08/post-covid-realities-in-healthcare-pt-2/>
- Critical Update: COVID-19 Challenges Test Veterans Affairs' Customer Experience Office
 - <https://www.nextgov.com/podcasts/2020/06/critical-update-covid-19-challenges-test-veterans-affairs-customer-experience-office/166172/>



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